

Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative, at the  
Ninth Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable  
representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other  
matters related to the Council on April 16, 2013

**Mr. Chair,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

We are grateful to you for your decision to convene the 9th round of Inter Governmental negotiations on Security Council reform today.

Having presented my credentials to the Secretary-General earlier today, I could not have asked for a better 'debut' statement at the United Nations than this!

Reform of institutions of global governance, including the UN Security Council, and ensuring that they reflect contemporary reality, has been a matter of foremost importance to my country.

At the outset, I would like to align myself with the G4 statement, delivered by the distinguished PR of Germany, Ambassador Peter Wittig, and with the statement made by Ambassador Camillo Gonsalves, my distinguished colleague from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Spokesperson of the L69 Group.

**Mr. Chair,**

Victor Hugo, had once said and I quote "*You can resist an invading army, but you cannot resist an idea whose time has come*".

It was in 1963, half a century ago, that the last expansion took place to enlarge the membership of the UN Security Council from 11 to 15. That was a modest increase of four in the non permanent category only. Since then membership of the United Nations has increased from 113 to 193. Mr. Chairman, 80 more countries have joined the United Nations, but the composition of its premier body, mandated to maintain international peace and security, has not undergone even the slightest change. This is an unnatural situation of stagnation in a dynamic and rapidly changing international environment.

We are also faced with a truly bizarre situation, when nearly 80 percent of the work of the Security Council is focussed on the continent of Africa, and yet, the Council has never had, even one permanent member from any of the 53 states of the African continent.

I have cited these examples only to illustrate that the argument for reforms is more compelling than ever before. It appears to be just a matter of time, when the body may either have to willingly embrace change, or be made to accept change as a '*fait accompli*'.

**Mr. Chair,**

Over eight rounds of these negotiations, you have heard clearly the national positions of participating delegations. By now you must also have a fair sense yourself of what the vast majority has been imploring you to achieve, which is to help expand and reform the Council.

In your assessment of 25 July 2012 you had acknowledged the strong support for expansion in both categories of membership of the reformed Council.

I would therefore like to submit the following points for your consideration to enable you take this 9<sup>th</sup> round of our IGN process forward:

The first is to move from words to action, from a mere repetition of old stated positions to achieving tangible progress. In this, we believe that your proposal contained in your letter of 25 July 2012 to produce a 'concise working document' would help kick start real negotiations and is most urgently needed. My delegation would like to support you in this endeavour and we do hope that such a document would be truly reflective of the discussions so far.

We appreciate your efforts in producing the latest compilation of the updated Rev3 text and the 'user friendly guide' along with it. This user friendly guide should help guide us, under your leadership, to at-least remove several redundant positions, as well as those that evidently command minimal support, so that we can move to real negotiations.

Secondly, we would like to hear from you, on how you plan to proceed from here to initiate real negotiations on the substantive proposals on the table. A sharing of your timeline for producing that 'concise working document' and the next steps would be particularly important.

Thirdly, we must avoid falling into long periods of 'stasis and inertia'. Given that World Leaders mandated us at 2005 World Summit to achieve an 'early' reform of the Security Council, it is imperative that the IGN take place at a 'pace and frequency' that befits the subject matter it deliberates. It would be desirable to demonstrate the result of our work before the 70th anniversary Summit of the United Nations.

A concise working document with set negotiation timelines would help ensure that the IGN moves into an outcome oriented mode

**Mr. Chair,**

You are also aware that the constituency for reforms is only increasing by the day. The L69 and the African group have converged.

You have also received an extremely constructive and forward looking draft resolution from our colleagues in the CARICOM, which best epitomises the 'comprehensive approach' to seeking early reforms.

We member states, who are positively committed to seeking early reforms of the Security Council look to you as a repository of the collective investment of all our endeavours since we embarked upon this IGN roadmap in the 63rd UNGA in 2009.

We once again compliment you for inviting us today to suggest options for the way forward, and you will always have our unstinted support.

Mr. Chair, the initiative is now in your hands to lead us forward in this collective quest of ours.

**Thank You.**

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)